

new prohibitions and requirements for disclosure and certification related to lobbying on recipients of Federal contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and loans.

7 CFR Part 3051—USDA implementation of OMB Circular No. A-133 regarding audits of institutions of higher education and other nonprofit institutions.

7 CFR Part 3407—CSREES implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act.

29 U.S.C. 794, Section 504—Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and 7 CFR Part 15b (USDA implementation of statute), prohibiting discrimination based upon physical or mental handicap in Federally assisted programs.

35 U.S.C. 200 *et seq.*—Bayh-Dole Act, controlling allocation of rights to inventions made by employees of small business firms and domestic nonprofit organizations, including universities, in Federally assisted programs (implementing regulations are contained in 37 CFR Part 401).

§ 3402.23 Confidential aspects of proposals and awards.

When a proposal results in a grant, it becomes a part of the record of the Agency's transactions, available to the public upon specific request. Information that the Agency and the grantee mutually agree to be of a privileged nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, any information that the applicant wishes to have considered as privileged should be clearly marked as such and sent in a separate statement, two copies of which should accompany the proposal. The original copy of a proposal that does not result in a grant will be retained by the Agency for a period of one year. Other copies will be destroyed. Such a proposal will be released only with the consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. A proposal may be withdrawn at any time prior to the final action thereon.

§ 3402.24 Access to peer review information.

After final decisions have been announced, HEP will, upon request, inform the project director of the reasons for its decision on a proposal. Verbatim copies of summary reviews, not including the identity of the reviewers, will be made available to respective project directors upon specific request.

§ 3402.25 Documentation of progress on funded projects.

(a) A Fellowship Appointment Documentation form (Form CSRS-707) is included in the application package. Upon request by HEP, project directors awarded grants under the program will be required to complete and submit this form. Follow-up progress reports will focus on assessing continuing progress of Fellows through their graduate programs of study (including activities supported by any special international study or thesis/dissertation research allowance) and on institution adherence to program guidelines.

(b) A Graduate Fellow Exit Report (Form CSRS-709) is included in the application package. This form should be completed and submitted to HEP by the project director for each Fellow supported by a grant as soon as a Fellow either: graduates; is officially terminated from the fellowship or the academic program due to unsatisfactory academic progress; or voluntarily withdraws from the fellowship or the academic program. If a Fellow has not completed all degree requirements at the end of the five-year grant duration, HEP may request a preliminary exit report. In such a case, a final exit report will be required at a later date. When a final exit report for each Fellow supported by a grant has been accepted by USDA, the grantee institution will have satisfied the requirement of a final performance report for the grant. Additional follow-up reports to track the Fellows' career patterns may be requested.

(c) A Final Report must be completed and returned within 90 days after the expiration date of the project. The Final Report must be submitted to the program contact person and must contain proper data and information as specified in the "Special Terms and Conditions" of the award. Generally, the Final Report should include a summary of: recruitment strategies that were effective; successful mentoring procedures or activities; enrichment activities the fellows were afforded; barriers faced in recruiting and graduating fellows; and the impact of the fellowship grant on the overall quality of the educational programs of the institution.